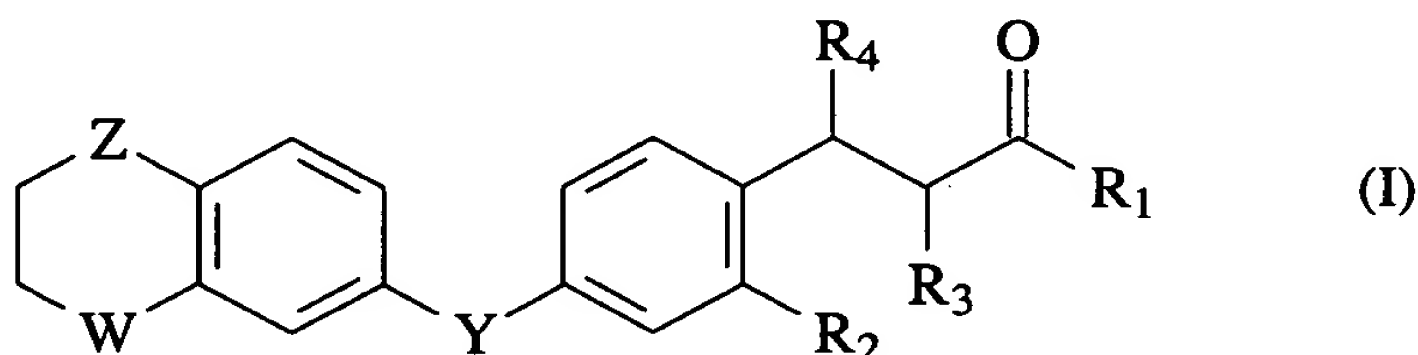


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

? method or composition

1. A regime or regimen for treating the cutaneous disorders/afflictions of an individual in need of such treatment, comprising administering to such individual, for such period of time as required to elicit the desired response, a thus-effective amount of at least one polycyclic aromatic compound having the structural formula (I):

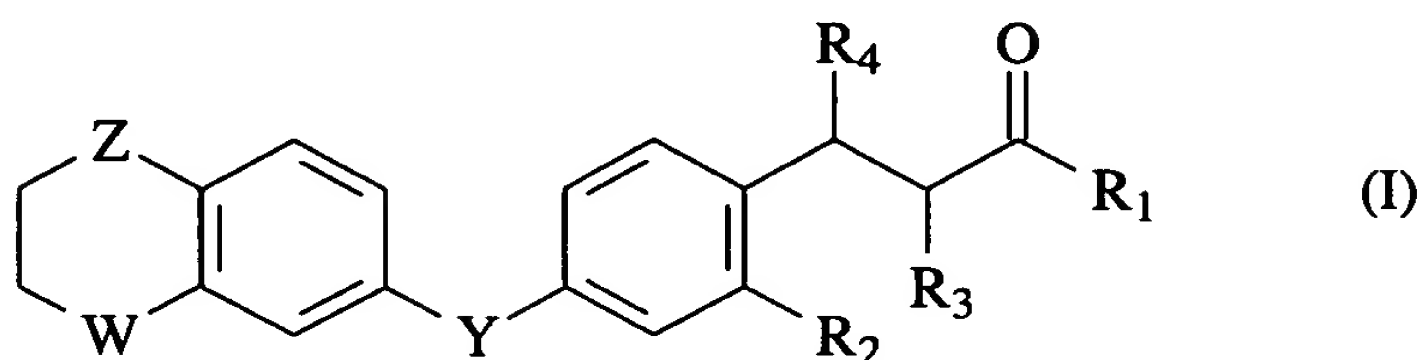


- in which R_1 is a hydrogen atom or an $-OR_5$ radical, wherein R_5 is as defined below; R_2 is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical; R_3 and R_4 , which may be identical or different, are each a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical, with the proviso that R_2 and R_3 , may together form a naphthalene ring with the adjacent benzene ring; Y is an oxygen atom, an $S(O)_n$ radical or an $N-R_6$ radical, wherein n and R_6 are as defined below; Z and W , which may be identical or different, are each $-CR_7R_8-$, $-O-$ or $-S(O)_m$, wherein m , R_7 and R_8 are as defined below; R_5 is a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched alkyl radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, or a mono- or polyhydroxyalkyl radical; R_6 is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical; R_7 and R_8 , which may be identical or different, are each a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical; n is 0, 1 or 2; m is 0, 1 or 2; or salt or chiral analog thereof.

2. A regime or regimen for treating disorders of the barrier function of human skin, disorders of the secretion of epidermal lipids, photodermatoses or ulcers, and/or disorders of the metabolism of lipids, comprising administering to an individual in need of such treatment, for such period of time as required to

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elicit the desired response, a thus-effective amount of at least one polycyclic aromatic compound having the structural formula (I):



- 5 in which R_1 is a hydrogen atom or an $-OR_5$ radical, wherein R_5 is as defined below; R_2 is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical; R_3 and R_4 , which may be identical or different, are each a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical, with the proviso that R_2 and R_3 , may together form a naphthalene ring with the adjacent benzene ring; Y is an oxygen atom, an $S(O)_n$ radical or an $N-R_6$ radical, wherein n and R_6 are as defined below; Z and W, which may be identical or different, are each $-CR_7R_8-$, $-O-$ or $-S(O)_m$, wherein m , R_7 and R_8 are as defined below; R_5 is a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched alkyl radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, or a mono- or polyhydroxyalkyl radical; R_6 is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical; R_7 and R_8 , which may be identical or different, are each a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical; n is 0, 1 or 2; m is 0, 1 or 2; or salt or chiral analog thereof.

3. The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 2, comprising treating skin disorders in premature babies born before 33 weeks, chapped lips, or blisters.

4. The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 2, comprising treating ulcers and erosions due to chemical or thermal burns, a bullous disorder, or a vascular or ischaemia disorder.

5. The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 4, comprising treating venous, arterial, embolic or diabetic ulcers.

6. The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 2, comprising treating obesity,
5 hyperlipidaemia or non-insulin-dependent diabetes.

7. The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 1, said at least one polycyclic aromatic compound (I) comprising a PPAR receptor activator.

10 8. The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 2, said at least one polycyclic aromatic compound (I) comprising a PPAR receptor activator.

9. The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 2, said at least one polycyclic aromatic compound (I) comprising at least one lower alkyl radical selected from
15 the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl and hexyl radicals.

10. The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 2, said at least one polycyclic aromatic compound (I) comprising at least one linear or branched alkyl radical
20 having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, 2-ethylhexyl, octyl, dodecyl, hexadecyl and octadecyl radicals.

11. The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 2, said at least one polycyclic aromatic compound (I) comprising at least one monohydroxyalkyl radical selected
25 from the group consisting of 2-hydroxyethyl, 2-hydroxypropyl and 3-hydroxypropyl radicals.

12. The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 2, said at least one polycyclic aromatic compound (I) comprising at least one polyhydroxyalkyl radical selected

from the group consisting of 2,3-dihydroxypropyl, 2,3,4-tri-hydroxybutyl and 2,3,4,5-tetrahydroxypentyl radicals and the pentaerythritol residue.

13. The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 2, said at least one polycyclic aromatic compound (I) comprising Compound 1: 6-(5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphth-2-yloxy)naphthalene-2-carboxylic acid; Compound 2: 3-[4-(5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphth-2-yloxy)phenyl]acrylic acid; Compound 3: 6-(5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphth-2-ylsulfanyl)naphthalene-2-carboxylic acid; Compound 4: 3-[4-(5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphth-2-yloxy)phenyl]but-2-enoic acid; or Compound 5: 6-(5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphth-2-ylamino)naphthalene-2-carboxylic acid.

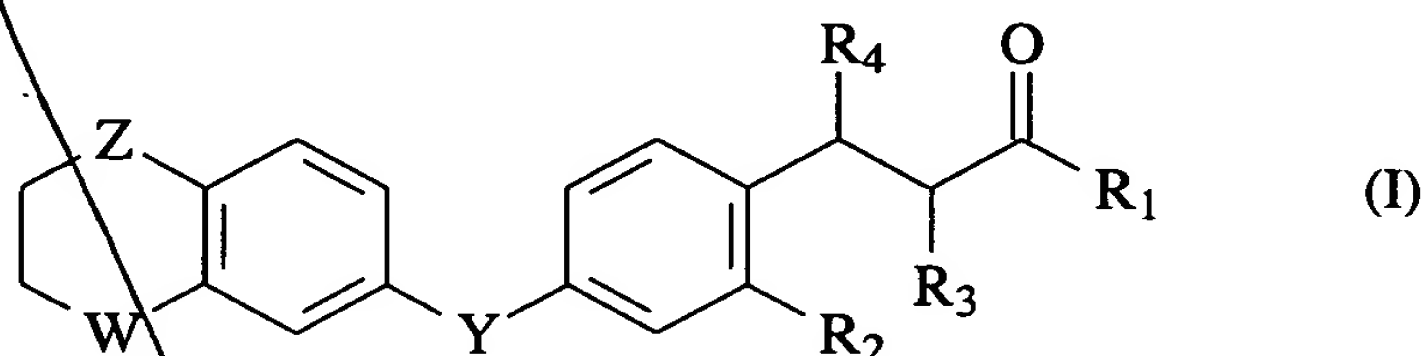
14. The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 2, said at least one polycyclic aromatic compound (I) comprising 6-(5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphth-2-ylsulfanyl)naphthalene-2-carboxylic acid.

15. The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 1, comprising administering said at least one polycyclic aromatic compound (I) via enteral or parenteral route.

16. The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 1, comprising administering said at least one polycyclic aromatic compound (I) via topical or ocular route.

17. The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 1, comprising coadministering to such individual an effective amount of at least one retinoid, vitamin D or derivative thereof, corticosteroid, agent for combating free radicals, α -hydroxy or α -keto acid or derivative thereof, or ion channel blocker.

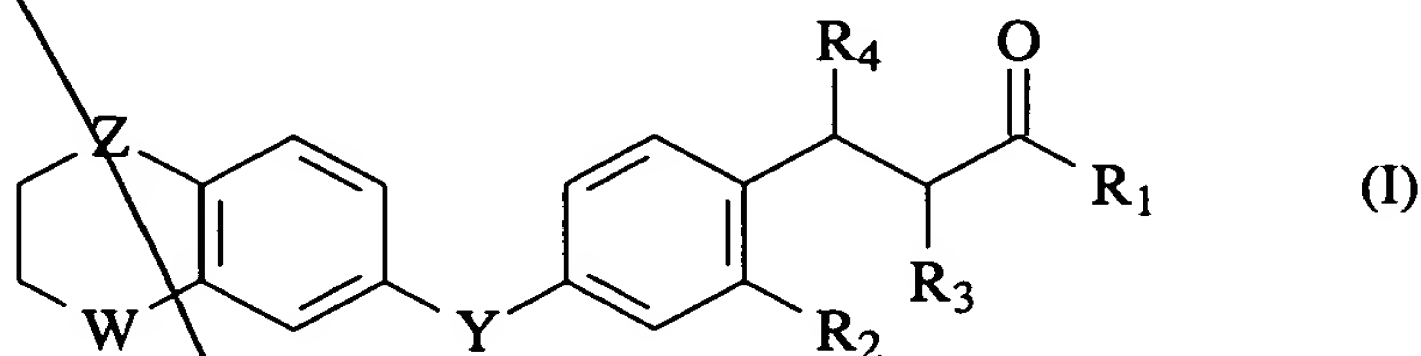
18. Tablets, capsules, syrup, suspension, solution, powder, granules, emulsion, lipid or polymeric microspheres, nanospheres or vesicles comprising an amount effective for treating disorders of the barrier function of human skin, disorders of the secretion of epidermal lipids, photodermatoses or ulcers, and/or disorders of the metabolism of lipids, of at least one polycyclic aromatic compound having the structural formula (I):



in which R_1 is a hydrogen atom or an $-OR_5$ radical, wherein R_5 is as defined below; R_2 is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical; R_3 and R_4 , which may be identical or different, are each a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical, with the proviso that R_2 and R_3 , may together form a naphthalene ring with the adjacent benzene ring; Y is an oxygen atom, an $S(O)_n$ radical or an $N-R_6$ radical, wherein n and R_6 are as defined below; Z and W , which may be identical or different, are each $-CR_7R_8-$, $-O-$ or $-S(O)_m$, wherein m , R_7 and R_8 are as defined below; R_5 is a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched alkyl radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, or a mono- or polyhydroxyalkyl radical; R_6 is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical; R_7 and R_8 , which may be identical or different, are each a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical; n is 0, 1 or 2; m is 0, 1 or 2, or salt or chiral analog thereof, formulated into an enterally/parenterally administrable, cosmetically/pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle, diluent or carrier therefor.

19. A salve, cream, emulsion, milk, ointment, powder, impregnated pad, solution, gel, spray, lotion, suspension, lipid or polymeric microspheres, nanospheres, vesicles, patch, hydrogel, soap or shampoo comprising an amount

effective for treating disorders of the barrier function of human skin, disorders of the secretion of epidermal lipids, photodermatoses or ulcers, and/or disorders of the metabolism of lipids, of at least one polycyclic aromatic compound having the structural formula (I):



in which R_1 is a hydrogen atom or an $-OR_5$ radical, wherein R_5 is as defined below; R_2 is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical; R_3 and R_4 , which may be identical or different, are each a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical, with the proviso that R_2 and R_3 , may together form a naphthalene ring with the adjacent benzene ring; Y is an oxygen atom, an $S(O)_n$ radical or an $N-R_6$ radical, wherein n and R_6 are as defined below; Z and W , which may be identical or different, are each $-CR_7R_8-$, $-O-$ or $-S(O)_m$, wherein m , R_7 and R_8 are as defined below; R_5 is a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched alkyl radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, or a mono- or polyhydroxyalkyl radical; R_6 is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical; R_7 and R_8 , which may be identical or different, are each a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical; n is 0, 1 or 2; m is 0, 1 or 2, or salt or chiral analog thereof, formulated into a topically applicable, cosmetically/pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle, diluent or carrier therefor.

20. The formulation as defined by Claim 18, further comprising an effective amount of at least one retinoid, vitamin D or derivative thereof, corticosteroid, agent for combating free radicals, α -hydroxy or α -keto acid or derivative thereof, or ion channel blocker.

21. The formulation as defined by Claim 19, further comprising an effective amount of at least one retinoid, vitamin D or derivative thereof, corticosteroid, agent for combating free radicals, α -hydroxy or α -keto acid or derivative thereof, or ion channel blocker.

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